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STORY OF THE LIARS.

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STORY

OF

THE LIARS DISCOVERED.

A gentleman got up very early one morning to take a ride. After he was dressed, as he was passing through the verandah in great haste, he ran against a chair and knocked it down. The chair, in its fall, broke a little glass shade which was set in a corner with some shoes and brushes and other things, belonging to the bearers. There was nobody with the gentleman when the accident happened and, as he was in a great hurry, he went out of the house without telling any one what he had done.

Soon after the gentleman was gone, the sweeper came into the verandah at one end and began sweeping; and the ayah came in at another door with the candle-stick from her lady's room. As she was setting down the candlestick, she saw the broken shade. "Ay, ay; what is here?" said the ayah, "you have broken the shade with your brush, and what will master say? Your pay will be cut for it."

The sweeper laid down his brush, and came running to see what was the matter, "Don't say that I broke the shade," said he, "for I have not been near it."

Now the ayah had had a quarrel with the sweeper's wife, and she thought the present occasion was a good opportunity for taking her

revenge. "Yes, but you did break it," said she; "did I not see you throw it down as I stood at the door? and did I not hear the shade fall? I shall take care to let mistress know": so she went away, and though the sweeper called after her, she made no answer.

The sweeper was much vexed, and was afraid that the ayah's story might prevail against him. Lest some of the other servants should accuse him of the same thing, he left the verandah in haste, and went to sweep the other side of the bungalow.

As soon as the sweeper was gone, one of the bearers came into the verandah and went to the corner where the broken shade was, and sat down to brush his master's boots. Now the bearer had chewed

so much bang during the night that his eyes were quite dull, and he had just sense enough to put his hand into the boot and brush it. As to the broken shade, he never saw it.

Just then the head-bearer came in. "What is this?" said he, as soon as he saw the broken shade. "Well, I shall let master know. I will not be blamed for your carelessness."

The bearer, who was called Panch Cowrie, lifted up his stupid eyes, and, for the first time, saw the broken shade. Then he began to assert that he had not broken it.

"Did I not see you kick it down with your foot?" said the head-bearer. "Did I not see it fall and hear the crash?"

It was of no use for Panch Cowrie to declare his innocence. The head-bearer affirmed that he had seen him kick the shade down with his foot, and called him a drunkard and all manner of bad names so loudly that the lady, followed by the ayah, came out to see what was the matter.

The head-bearer explained the cause of the quarrel. Now it happened that Panch Cowrie was a great favourite of the ayah's, and that she hated the head-bearer as much as she did the sweeper's wife. Without waiting until her mistress should speak, she said to the head-bearer, "How dare you say that Panch Cowrie broke the shade, when I myself, not half an hour ago, saw the sweeper break it with his brush?"

"Have I no eyes?" said the head-bearer. "Look at the man! he is drunk now."

"Bring me the Koran," said the ayah, "and I will this moment swear upon it, that I this morning saw the sweeper break it with his brush."

"I will also swear," said the head-bearer, "by G u n g a, that Panch Cowrie broke it. I saw him kick it with his foot; I saw it fall and heard the crash."

By this time the sweeper was come, and offered to swear that he had not been in the verandah that morning. While all the servants were crowding to see what was the matter, the gentleman came home. Having commanded silence, he asked the lady the reason of the uproar.

When the lady told the gentleman what she had heard, the head-bearer said,

"I will swear by the waters of Gunga, that I saw Panch Cowrie break the shade."

"I will swear," said the ayah, "that I saw the sweeper break the shade."

The gentleman then mentioned in what manner he had broken the shade himself, and ordered both the ayah and the head-bearer to leave his service. He said, "I will not keep such wicked liars under my roof."

The Bible, the true Veda, says, "Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour." It is also written, "All liars shall have their portion in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone." Always

speak the truth. Sooner or later, liars are discovered and punished.

What should we do on account of the lies which we have already spoken and the many other sins we have committed? Let us seek pardon from God in the name of his Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, the Saviour of the world, and let us ask God to give us his Holy Spirit to cleanse our hearts. Let us also remember that God hears every word we say, and let this be our prayer, "O Lord, keep the door of my lips."

Oh 'tis a lovely thing for youth,
  To walk betimes in wisdom's way;
To fear a lie, to speak the truth,
  That we may trust to all they say!

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